

I, Zachary Nickerson, a graduate student of Environmental Policy and Management from Seaville, NJ, respectfully urge Congress to extend the wind energy production tax credit (PTC) as quickly as possible.

If we as a nation are going to build our 21st century economy around clean, domestic sources of energy, then wind energy will unquestionably be a large part of our future. In order to support this vital American industry, responsible for creating thousands of manufacturing, installation and maintenance jobs in the last few years alone, while creating clean, renewable energy that does not pollute our health, our environment, or contribute to global climate change, then the PTC is an indispensable tool.

One independent economic study of the impact of the PTC found that it is at a critical level in determining the competitiveness of wind-generated electricity, and that the potential for profitable wind power with the current PTC subsidy amounts to more than seven times existing demand for electricity in the entire U.S. (Lu et al., 2011). Clearly, this one policy has the potential to have an enormous impact on the way we generate electricity in this country, as has been shown by the dramatic growth of this industry recently (AWEA, 2011). Another independent study showed how uncertainty over the fate of the PTC has affected the industry in the past, creating a boom-bust cycle in which people are wary of making long-term investments (Barradale, 2010). It is in our best interest to provide the certainty that businesses need to make smart investments by renewing the PTC as soon as possible, for as long as possible, and not waiting until the last minute or until after it has already expired to do so.

I again urge the committee to take up an extension of the wind energy production tax credit right away.

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